

short. But as they always say, there is next year.

So, finally, with apologies to Mr. Longfellow, I would conclude by saying:

Somewhere in this favored land
The sun is shining bright.
The band is playing somewhere
And somewhere hearts are light.
Somewhere men are laughing,
Somewhere children play.
But there is no joy in Washington,
The lobbyists won the day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENGLISH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, in my own district, I have an outstanding example of the best of American business. One of the stores of my district, Lowe's, a store in Citrus Heights, is one of the best in the country. I think they serve the community well.

But I would like to talk about an experience my wife and I had this last Saturday here at the Lowe's store in Northern Virginia, in Alexandria. We were going there to buy an appliance that we needed. While we waited for it to be taken out of inventory, I went outside in the parking lot where I saw two large vans that were identified as DeWalt vans. That is the name of the company that provides the power tools that are sold at Lowe's. And I have purchased at least one in the past and thought I might be interested in purchasing another.

So, I went out to the big display they had where they had roped off a part of the parking lot to see what they had, to see what I might want to purchase. I was given a flier. I have a blowup of

that flier here. When I was handed the flier, I noticed that it was in Spanish. I asked if I could have an English translation or English flier. I was told they didn't have any. But I was told that I could look at the pictures to see what they had on display. I commented that I thought I was in the United States. I was born here. I was taught English in the schools.

At that point in time, whoever was doing a bit of the program got on the mike and started speaking to those who were assembled. He spoke in Spanish. I then went inside. As we were making the purchase, I asked to see the manager of the Lowe's store there on Jefferson Highway in Alexandria, Virginia at about 1:30 in the afternoon. The manager came up to me and asked what my complaint was. I suggested that I thought it might be a good idea that they also have English available to those of us who might want to purchase their product. He first told me that wasn't his problem, it was DeWalt's. Of course, DeWalt, as far as I could tell, you only could purchase at Lowe's. Then he looked at me with some chagrin in his face and some upset that I would bring it up and said, "Well, if you want me to apologize because it is in Spanish, okay, I apologize." There was no attempt made to try and service a customer who wanted to buy a product, who wanted to have something explained to him in English rather than looking at the pictures.

Now, I understand if I am in another country where English is not the predominant language, I would not be offended if somebody handed me a sheet and said, "I am sorry we don't have something in English, but you can look at the pictures and see what we have." But to be made to feel like a foreigner in your own country within just 30 miles of our Nation's Capitol seems passing strange.

I don't object to the celebration of other cultures. We have half Irish and half Swedish in my background. I understand that many of us in America enjoy the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Many in America and the State in which I was born, California, celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Individuals who come from other backgrounds, whose ancestors have come from other countries, we rejoice in the diversity of America. We rejoice in the fact that we are a country of immigrants.

But when we attempt to deal with the difficult questions of immigration, both legal and illegal, and I have been involved in trying to create laws in that for the last 27 years, and when we talk about the issue of multiculturalism in this society, how do we, somehow, create a society that is made even better by the tremendous contributions of people from around the world, different cultures, ethnicities, languages and backgrounds? We still have to understand. We have to have some unifying elements in this society precisely because we have so many backgrounds. One of

those unifying elements, in my humble opinion, is a common language, that common language being English. I think when things like this occur, I wasn't identified as a congressman, I was just a plain old customer, as was my wife, this is the kind of thing I think that irritates so many Americans who believe we have just given up on attempting to bring us together with a common American culture brought together by a number of different things, one of which, importantly, is our language. I would hope that not only in this body would we reflect on that, but I would hope some of our commercial enterprises, such as Lowe's, would reflect on that, as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 27.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 27.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 24, 2007, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: